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Application Number	09/770,729
Filing Date	January 26, 2001
First Named Inventor	Jeff (Yefim) Zhuk
Art Unit	2157
Examiner Name	Yves Dalencourt
Attorney Docket Number	8540/1(a)

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Firm or Individual name	Thomas S. Birney, Esq. Dorr, Carson, Sloan, Birney & Kramer, P.C.
Signature	<i>Thomas S Birney</i>
Date	October 15, 2004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Re: Application of
Jeff (Yefim) Zhuk

Serial No. 09/770,729

Filed: Jan. 26, 2001

For: Distributed Active Knowledge and
Process Base Allowing System
Elements to be Shared within a
Collaborative Framework

Examiner Yves Dalencourt
Art Unit 2157

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RESPONSE

Applicant respectfully submits the following in response to the Office Action dated July 30, 2004.

Claims 1 - 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grasso et al. Applicant respectfully submits that Grasso et al. disclose a network-based system that uses a single centralized server for managing the delivery of documents to subscribers. The system includes a wizard-like user interface to walk users through common tasks, such as distribution of new documents, updating documents, and setting policies and profiles for documents and users. In short, the system disclosed by Grasso et al. is essentially a type of bulletin board system (BBS) for distributing data (i.e., documents) to users. The limitations of such bulletin board systems are discussed on page 2, lines 15 *et seq.* of the specification.

In contrast to the present invention, nothing in Grasso et al. teaches or suggests DOTS having system elements that include processes and services, as well as data, as defined for example in claim 1, lines 8 - 9. For example, this enables users to perform

operations and use applications such as calendars, address books, chat rooms, data processors, etc. as part of a distributed system.

In addition, claim 1 requires that the DOTS include system methods that enable "addition of new system elements and modification of the functionality and content of existing system elements" (claim 1, lines 10 - 13). In other words, the DOTS include system methods that enable processes and services (as well as data) to be added and modified across the entire network to modify the way the system itself functions or to provide new functionality in a manner that is transparent to the user. Here again, Grasso et al provide for distribution of new and modified documents, but not new and modified process and services. Similar limitations are present in both of the remaining independent claims (i.e., claim 17, lines 8 - 9; and claim 21, lines 8 - 9 and 11 - 13).

The system disclosed by Grasso et al. differs in a fundamental way from the present invention. Grasso et al. teach a system with a single centralized server, which multiple clients connect to. The present system, on the other hand, teaches a distributed communications model between a plurality of DOTS. This enables different systems to share data with each other by using the same methods for different data types and applications, and to search other systems. Thus, while the system disclosed by Grasso et al. is a closed system for one enterprise (comparable to a single bulletin board system), the present system favors a large-scale global approach where different systems may use variable applications and protocols to share many types of data, processes and services.

With regard to claims 2, 3 and 6, Applicant notes that these dependent claims require user evaluations or usage value summaries associated with system elements. Dynamically ascribing values to system elements is neither taught nor suggested by Grasso et al. For example, such values could be used as a type of virtual currency to enable users to purchase elements of given values with an equal amount of currency. A user who contributes an element that subsequently becomes highly valued would receive that amount of currency, and be able to use it to purchase other system elements.

With regard to claims 9 - 10 and 17 - 23, nothing in Grasso et al. teaches or suggests a thematic search controller to search for system elements with selected parameters, or to search system elements across a plurality of DOTS.

With regard to dependent claim 15, nothing in Grasso et al. teaches or suggests a remote control feature. This feature enables a client or DOTS to control and launch processes in another DOTS. Thus, users can control documents and applications on other systems, enabling new aspects of telecommuting. For example, the system might be used to install an application that would set an alarm on a remote machine, scheduled to go off when a critical state is reached. This application could then use the remote-control feature to send a message or run an application on a given user's system in order to notify the user.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/15/04

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